

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303070
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY D/LOS:GEORGE TAFT:AFR
APPROVED BY D/LOS:T LONG
L/OES:BOXMAN (SUBS)
DOD:MR. FRENCH
NEA/ARP:JOHN LYLE
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

----- 129726 /63

P 142113Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
INFO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303070

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ

REF: (A) KUWAIT 5430 NOTAL; (B) DOHA 1234; (C) ABU
DHABI 3126

1. THE STRAITS ISSUE AT THE LOS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ONE
OF THE MOST CRITICAL TO THE U.S. WE COULD NOT AGREE TO A
LOS TREATY THAT DID NOT INCLUDE PROVISION FOR UNIMPEDED
TRANSIT THROUGH, OVER AND UNDER STRAITS USED FOR INTER-
NATIONAL NAVIGATION CONNECTING ONE PART OF THE HIGH SEAS
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TO ANOTHER PART OF THE HIGH SEAS; E.G. HORMUZ AND

GIBRALTAR. WE COULD NOT ACCEPT NOR COULD OTHER MARITIME NATIONS ACCEPT A REGIME OF INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH SUCH STRAITS. MOREOVER, THERE IS BROAD AGREEMENT IN THE LOS CONFERENCE ON THE TRANSIT PASSAGE REGIME ARTICLES. THE ARTICLES ARE OPPOSED BY ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF STATES. FURTHERMORE, WE CANNOT ACCEPT A RESULT WHERE THE LITTORAL STATES OF A REGION HAVE GREATER RIGHTS REGARDING TRANSIT THROUGH STRAITS THAN OTHER STATES.

2. THE POSSIBLE UAE SHIFT IN POSITION NOTED IN REF (C) IS ALSO TROUBLING BECAUSE OF THEIR PREVIOUS MODERATE

POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. MOREOVER, IT IS A POSITION THAT IS NOT SUPPORTED BY ALL OF THE ARAB BLOC (WHICH IS SPLIT ON THIS ISSUE). FOR EXAMPLE, SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ, TUNISIA SUPPORTED FREE TRANSIT THROUGH HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS STRAITS AT THE LOS CONFERENCE.

3. AS AN OIL PRODUCER, UAE HAS A SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN FREE TRANSIT THROUGH HORMUZ AND SIMILAR STRAITS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

4. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD STRONGLY URGE UAE TO MAINTAIN ITS FORMER POSITION THAT THERE BE FREE TRANSIT THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ AND OTHER STRAITS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS, DRAWING UPON PARAS 1, 2 AND 3 ABOVE, AS APPROPRIATE. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO NOTE US-UAE COOPERATION AT LOS CONFERENCE AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND WIDELY REGARDED MODERATE APPROACH OF UAE.

5. FYI: THE ARAB GROUP SUPPORTS SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO TERRITORIAL SEAS, E.G. TIRAN. THE ISRAELIS SUPPORT FREE TRANSIT THROUGH SUCH STRAITS. THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE EXISTING TEXT, I.E., NON-SUSPENDABLE INNOCENT PASSAGE, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE HIGHLIGHTED. IF SUBJECT RAISED YOU SHOULD INDICATE GENERAL SUPPORT FOR

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EXISTING TEXT ON STRAITS, WHICH SEEMS TO BE ONLY BASIS FOR AGREEMENT. END FYI. KISSINGER

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY D/LOS:GEORGE TAFT:AFR

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-----142205Z 048529 /66

O 142150Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 3399

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303070

EXDIS

FOL RPT STATE 303070 ACTION ABU DHABI INFO BAGHDAD DOHA
JIDDA KUWAIT LONDON MANAMA SANA MUSCAT TEHRAN 14 JAN QUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, INNOCENT PASSAGE, STRAITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE303070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GEORGE TAFT:AFR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0744
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761243/aaaablrr.tel
Line Count: 226
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 5430, 76 DOHA 1234
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ
TAGS: PLOS, TC
To: ABU DHABI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006